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Department:
Trade, Industry and Competition
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

QUESTION FOR WRITTEN REPLY

QUESTION NO. 147

Mr K Motsamai (Gauteng: EFF) to ask the Minister of Trade and Industry:

Whether he has been informed that butcheries across the country are allegedly selling expired meat products; if not, what is the position in this regard; if so, what actions are being taken to address the matter? [CW144E]

REPLY

The National Consumer Commission (NCC) advises that it is aware of media reports regarding expired food, but has not received any direct complaints concerning the sale of expired meat products. Accordingly, no formal report by the NCC has been brought to my attention.

The sale of goods that have passed their sell-by date is regulated by the Department of Health and enforced by environmental health practitioners (inspectors) based at local municipal level.

Consumer protection is an area of concurrent jurisdiction with all provincial consumer authorities. In terms of section 84 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2008 (Act No. 68 of 2008) ('the CPA'), all provinces are mandated to enforce the CPA and their Provincial Consumer legislation by conducting investigations and referring matters to their respective Consumer Courts where there are infringements of the legislation.

In the event the National Consumer Commission receives such a complaint, it may conduct an investigation in conjunction with the local environmental health offices. Furthermore, the NCC will increase awareness on this issue through the media.

I have now asked the NCC to compile a full report of instances reported in the media and to write to provinces to determine what additional information is available; and to bring this to the attention of the Department of Health and of local inspectors. Any information available by the Honourable Member and members of the public, would be welcomed.

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